



State of Utah

JON M. HUNTSMAN, JR.  
*Governor*

GARY R. HERBERT  
*Lieutenant Governor*

## UTAH STATE TAX COMMISSION

Pam Hendrickson  
*Commission Chair*

R. Bruce Johnson  
*Commissioner*

Marc B. Johnson  
*Commissioner*

D'Arcy Dixon Pignanelli  
*Commissioner*

Rodney G. Marrelli  
*Executive Director*

## NEWS RELEASE

March 11, 2009

Contact: Charlie Roberts  
801 297-3910 (office)  
801 556-6318 (cell)  
435 882-6910 (home)

### Jury finds pilot guilty On 4 felony counts of State income tax evasion

A jury found a SkyWest Airlines pilot guilty on four felony criminal charges of State income tax evasion Tuesday, March 10, in 3<sup>rd</sup> District Court.

Hiram Drane, 44, West Valley City was convicted on two tax evasion counts, both second degree felonies and two separate failure to file a proper tax return counts, both third degree felonies. The convictions were based on the 2005 and 2006 tax years.

State witnesses testified that Drane evaded state taxes on more than \$100,000 earned in wages during both 2005 and 2006. He also earned over \$36,000 in stock trading during that period, witnesses testified.

Judge Judith Atherton issued an arrest warrant with a \$250,000 cash only bond for Drane when he failed to return to court for the afternoon session. The defendant represented himself in the case.

"The Tax Commission vigorously investigates and prosecutes those who refuse to pay state income taxes," said Charlie Roberts, spokesman for the Utah State Tax Commission. "These taxes go directly to public schools. When crimes like this are committed, it directly impacts our school children and honest taxpayers in a negative way."

Utah State Tax Commission Criminal Investigations Unit investigated the case that was prosecuted by the Utah Attorney General's office.

###